You May Find Use for These Handy

Short Cuts for Car Owners

How to Fix a Broken Spark Plug, or Keep the Rain Out of the Ignition—Easy Way to Build Garage Door Stops

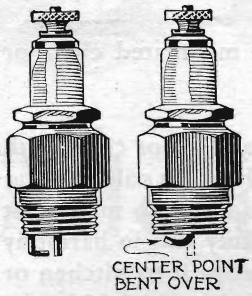

Fig. 1. If the outer point breaks, bend the inner point over close to the rim.

TWO common causes of spark plug failure are carbonization and burned or broken electrodes. An emergency repair for a broken electrode is shown in Fig. 1. Here the outer electrode is broken off. To make the spark plug work, simply bend the center electrode over close to the rim of the shell. This can be done, however, only if the center electrode is long enough.

A "Raincoat" for Ignition

WHEN a driving rainstorm blows drops of water through the louvres in the hood and the moisture gets all over the distributor head, many car owners have found to their sorrow that the motor will not start. The high tension current leaks away through the moisture instead of jumping the gaps in the spark plugs.

Figure 2 shows a novel way to get rid of this trouble. Take a child's rubber ball slightly larger in diameter than the distributor head and cut off the lower portion as shown. Next punch small holes for the ignition wires. They should be so small that you will have to force the wires through them. The edge of the large hole is pulled down around the edge of the distributor. If the ignition wires are good, this arrangement will be so nearly waterproof that you could pour a pail of water over the distributor head without affecting the operation of the car.

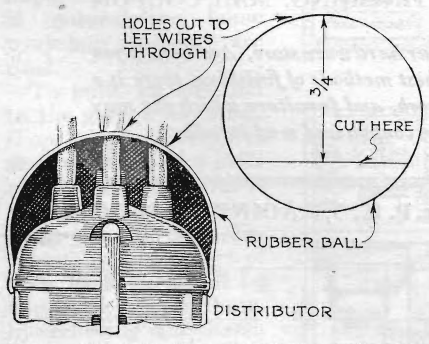

Fig. 2. Three quarters of a rubber ball, fitted like a cap over the distributor head, with holes for the wires, guards ignition from moisture.

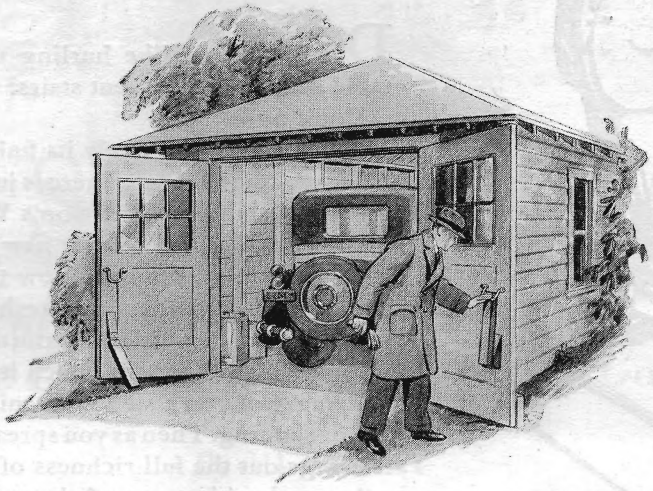

Fig. 3. These easily built garage door stops are made of hinged boards which fold upward and are held by latch when not in use.

Handy Garage Door Stop

FOR a simple and effective garage door stop, all you need is four pieces of board, some wood screws, four screw eyes, a foot of heavy wire, and two cheap strap hinges.

The illustration of Fig. 3 shows the construction. Two short pieces of board are fastened to the doors with wood screws, and to these are hinged two lower pieces which serve as the stops and swing upward when not in use. Then a pair of screw eyes are placed on each door, level with the points where the upward swinging stops strike the doors. To these the wires are fastened and bent to form two latches.

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

W. Conway, of Syosset, N. Y., wins this month's $10 prize for his suggestion of a piston ring compressor, shown in Fig. 4. Each month POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards $10, in addition to regular space rates, for the best idea sent in for motorists. Other contributions used are paid for at the usual rates.

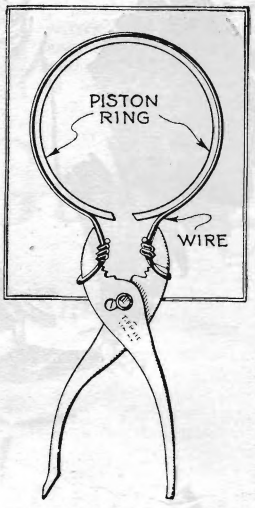

Fig. 4. Novel piston ring compressor made from pliers.

Piston Ring Compressor

FIGURE 4 shows an effective piston ring compressor made of a pair of adjustable pliers and a piece of strong iron wire. Success depends on how carefully you fit the ends of the wire to the jaws of the pliers. By fitting the wire so that the ring stands at right angles, it is possible to use this compressor in close quarters.

Sticking Tires Remedied

WHEN tires are left undisturbed on the rims for a long period, they frequently are rusted so tightly to the rims that it is extremely difficult to remove them. This sticking can be eliminated by fitting a band of zinc around the rim. Use thin stock for this work.

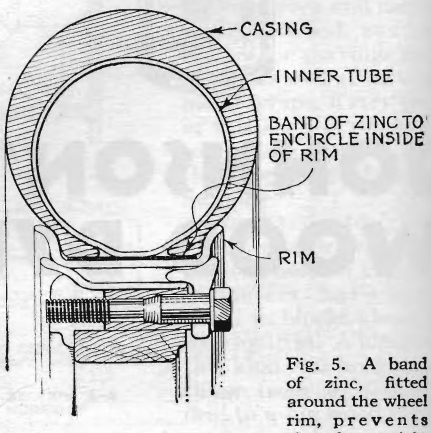

Fig. 5. A band of zinc, fitted around the wheel rim, prevents tires from sticking to the rim.